

SUBJECT: Two-year ban on lobbying by former statewide elected officers, staff

COMMITTEE: General Investigating and Ethics — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — S. Davis, Moody, Capriglione, Nevárez, Shine, Turner

0 nays

1 absent — Price

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Joanne Richards, Common Ground for Texans; Carol Birch, Public Citizen Texas; Craig McDonald, Texans for Public Justice; Terri Hall, Texas TURF, Texans for Toll-free Highways; Don Dixon; Vincent May; Hamilton Richards)

Against — None

DIGEST: HB 3882 would prohibit former statewide elected officers from engaging in lobbying for two years after they ceased to hold office. A person employed by the statewide officer who reported directly to the official also would be prohibited from lobbying for two years after ending employment with the officer. The prohibitions would apply to activities that require registration as a lobbyist under current law.

A violation of HB 3882 would be a class A misdemeanor (up to one year in jail and/or a maximum fine of \$4,000).

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017, and would apply to elected officers who ceased to hold office on or after that date and to staff members who ceased to be employed by a statewide elected officer on or after that date.